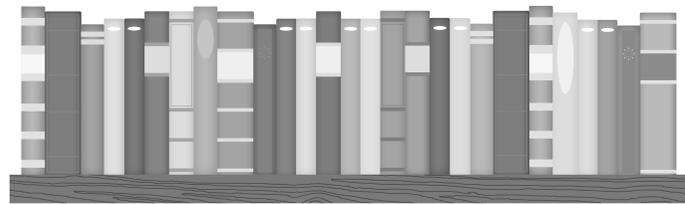


A Parent's Guide to Accelerated Reader™ Questions and Answers



Your child will be participating in the Accelerated Reader (AR™) program. This guide is designed to answer your questions about AR. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or visit the Accelerated Reader website at www.renlearn.co.uk.

What is Accelerated Reader (AR)?

AR is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Your child picks a book at his/her own level and reads it at his/her own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer - passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what has been read.

Children using AR choose their own books to read, rather than having one assigned to them. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they feel in control and can choose books that are interesting to them.

Teachers, the librarian or an LSA will help your child choose books that are at an appropriate reading level. These will be challenging without being frustrating and will also be at a level at which your child can pass the quiz and experience success.

How does the school determine my child's reading level?

Children complete a STAR Reading™ test before starting the AR program.

What is a STAR Reading test?

STAR Reading is a computer based reading assessment program that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses. If the child's response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. If the child cannot answer a question or answers incorrectly, the difficulty level is reduced. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 20 minutes. The STAR Reading test will provide a measure of your child's reading range called a Zone of Proximal Development.

Is it OK for my child to read outside of their reading level?

Just because a child can read the words in a book does not mean the content is appropriate. The Interest Level of the material must be considered. Interest level is based on content—a book's themes and ideas—and indicates for which age group a book is appropriate. The chart below shows which years fall into each Interest Level.

Interest Level	Year Level
LY - Lower Years	Ages 5-8 / Key Stage 1
MY - Middle Years	Ages 9-13 / Key Stage 2
UY - Upper Years	Ages 14 and above / Key Stage 3 & 4

These are recommendations. It is the responsibility of teachers, librarians and parents to use their best judgement when guiding children to appropriate books.

In many cases a book's interest level coordinates with its book level. Many books however, have a low book level but are appropriate for Upper Years and vice versa. For example, Oscar, Cat – About – Town by James Herriot and Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman have a Book Level of 4.0 since both have short sentences vocabulary that is simple. Noughts and Crosses, is intended for older pupils therefore it is tagged as Upper Years while Oscar, Cat – About – Town is tagged as Lower Years.



My child is not a strong reader. Can he/she still use Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader helps all children become better readers from students with additional educational needs to those who are gifted and talented. When children read books at their appropriate level, they experience success.

How can I help my child find books that are interesting to them?

Visit www.arbookfind.co.uk and in the box on the left please type the code - CE327184 to find the school book lists.

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[Link AR BookFinder to your school's web page](#)

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You will be able to generate book lists that contain titles based on Book Level, Topic, Interest Level and Fiction/Non-fiction, etc.

What is a Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)?

A ZPD is the range of books that will challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation. Your child will receive a ZPD range after taking a STAR Reading test. Your child's ZPD will be individual to them and range from 1.5 - 8.5 or higher.

What are points?

Every book that has an AR Reading Practice Quiz is given a points value. AR points are based on the difficulty of the book (ATOS readability level) and the length of the book (number of words).

Here are some examples of books within our library and their book level and quiz points

Book Title...	Book level...	Quiz points...
Horrid Henry by Francesca Simon	3.3	1.0
Billionaire Boy by David Walliams	4.1	4.0
Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer	5.0	9.0
A Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket	6.7	6.0
Harry Potter and the Order of the Pheonix	7.2	44.0

A book that has more points assigned to it does not mean we think it is a better book, or more worthwhile to read, only that it is much longer and provides more reading practice time.

The number of points earned on a quiz is proportional to how many questions are answered correctly.

What are points cont...

For example, a pupil who takes a 5-question quiz on a book worth 1 point will earn 1 point for 5 correct answers (100%), 0.8 point for 4 correct answers (80%) and so on.

A pupil who reads a book worth 5 points and takes a 10-question quiz will earn 5 points for 10 correct answers (100%) 4.5 points for 9 correct answers (90%), etc. A child needs to pass a quiz with a score of 60% or higher to earn points.

Points can be exchanged for rewards and classes will be competing against each other to earn the most points earned and the most words read.



How many Accelerated Reader quizzes are there?

There are over 11,000 AR quizzes available and more being written every month.

What kinds of quizzes are there?

Accelerated Reader includes several types of quizzes designed to support the development of several reading skills. Quiz types include:

Reading Practice Quizzes: Are the most common type of assessment in AR. The purpose of these quizzes is to determine whether your child has read a book, to measure his/her literal comprehension of the book and to provide immediate feedback. Each Reading Practice Quiz consists of 5, 10 or 20 multiple-choice questions depending on book level and length.

Vocabulary Practice Quizzes: Measure a child's command of vocabulary words in context while reading specific books. They are designed to reinforce vocabulary acquisition, assist with individualising vocabulary instruction and to stimulate your child's interest in words through authentic, in-context, literature experiences. Quizzes include 5, 10 or 15 words from a particular book as well as review words from previously read books.

Literacy Skills Quizzes: Are designed to give your child's teacher information on specific reading skills. Questions are randomly generated from a 36-strong item bank resulting in 12 or 24 quiz questions. Due to item-bank technology, Literacy Skills Quizzes can be taken up to three times. Quiz questions are based on 24 specific higher order reading comprehension skills.

How much will my child read during the school day?

According to Renaissance Learning's research, children who read at least 20 minutes a day with a 90% comprehension rate on AR quizzes see the greatest gains. Therefore, your child should have at least 20 minutes set aside for reading during each school day.

How can I help my child become a better reader?

As with anything, performance improves with practice. Encourage your child to read at home. Create a culture of reading in your household by reading with your child, starting a home library, visiting your local library or bookshop on a regular basis and by letting your child see you reading. When reading with your child stop and ask questions to be sure your child comprehends what they have read and in general make a habit of discussing books that each of you has read.

